



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: July 12, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(i): Consideration of resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 84 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a program of preservation, protection and restoration to ensure the continued use and enjoyment of natural and developed resources in the Upper Los Angeles and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 84 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a program of preservation, protection and restoration to ensure the continued use and enjoyment of natural and developed resources in the Upper Los Angeles and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds.

Background: The Conservancy's land management cooperating agency, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), not only acquires land, but, more and more, must actively care for that land by providing safety, resource protection, access and programs for public use. To continue to provide safe and enjoyable public access and a high quality experience in all the parks that it manages, the MRCA must ensure the facilities in them are not only maintained in good condition, but are actively improved as public use dictates. The funding in place for the ongoing long-term maintenance of MRCA parks is not sufficient to include the activities necessary to provide for the enhancement, restoration and improvement of these parks.

The MRCA is requesting funding for a Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) for the parklands under its management. The purpose of the CIP will be to undertake minor site improvements to our facilities to continue providing a high quality park experience for our visitors. These facilities include trails, benches, picnic tables, fencing, signage, interpretive elements, drinking fountains, parking areas, irrigation and planting. These projects would increase the useful life of existing amenities and would improve the visitor experience.

Some of the minor site improvements contemplated include installation or replacement of site fixtures including fencing, signage, park benches, picnic tables,

interpretive displays, plantings and other park amenities. The heavy public use of MRCA parks creates noticeable wear and tear on the facilities, and some parks suffer from chronic vandalism. The frequent use of items like benches and tables, signs, and irrigation equipment means that these elements have a shorter-than-normal lifetime, and require periodic replacement.

Consideration: The grant from the Conservancy would be in the amount of \$400,000.